

INC-3 Closing remarks – Amb. Meza-Cuadra, INC Chair

Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

As we come to the end of the third session of the INC, I would first like to thank Kenya for their hospitality in hosting us this week.

Returning to this marvellous country has revigorated the Nairobi spirit that has guided our deliberations thus far.

Let me also acknowledge and thank the tremendous efforts and great work from the Secretariat and our six co-facilitators who have been the linchpin for the success of this INC.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After INC-3, our determination remains intact and so does our north star: ending plastic pollution by addressing the full life cycle of plastics.

As UN Secretary General recently reminded us, plastic pollution is not only a threat to our health and our livelihoods, but it is also deeply intertwined with the triple environmental crisis, including the climate one.

Using his words: "Plastics are fueling the climate crisis... we need a plastics treaty that reduces plastic production."

The world has its eyes set on us and on our ability to demonstrate that the multilateral system can deliver a collective response to the most pressing challenges of our times: the environmental crisis.

Your constructive engagement on the basis of the zero draft, you had entrusted me to prepare, has demonstrated that beyond our differences there is more that unites than what drives us apart.

Building on this common ground, these past 10 days have taken us closer to achieving our objective to develop an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

But it has also recalled us that much remains to be done both in narrowing down our differences and in developing technical work to inform our negotiations. In that regard, the agreement you have reached on intersessional work will prove to be an essential pillar to the delivery of a comprehensive and effective legal instrument.

Colleagues,

On a personal note, as I leave the chairmanship of the INC, I would like to thank you all for your active collaboration over the past three INCs and for having entrusted Peru to Preside over our work.

This is a recognition of the transformative reforms that Peru has been leading at the national level to combat plastic pollution as much as it is a testament to my country's environmental engagement in the international arena.

It is also yet another proof of the positive impulse that developing countries of the Global South can bring to the world when we unite our forces, as when Rwanda and Peru put forward the initiative that landed on the UNEA 5/14 resolution that started our common emprise to combat plastic pollution.

As I pass the baton to Ambassador Vayas from Ecuador, whom I am convinced will successfully bring us to our final destination, I would like to reaffirm both my country's and personal commitment to continue contributing to this negotiating process to ensure that we deliver the ambition treaty that world calls for.

Let me conclude by sending you off from Nairobi with some words of Nelson Mandela that I invite all of you reflect on as we you engage in the upcoming INCs: "Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."

Thank you